

THE CHRISTMAS WISH

by Keith Newman

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Two shepherds on the hills close to Bethlehem on are about to find out that wishes really do come true.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: One light (½ to ¾ full strength or blue) comes up on a shepherd standing on the crest of a hill. It is night and the shepherd, Gideon, is leaning on his staff and happily sighing as he looks up at the stars. Another shepherd comes up from the darkness to stand along side his friend and speaks.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:8-14

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Christmas Eve Service

CHARACTERS:

Josef—teen or adult shepherd

Gideon—teen or adult shepherd

PROPS: Two shepherd's staffs

COSTUMES: Shepherd's clothing

SOUND: Two wireless mics

LIGHTING: One light at first (½ to ¾ full strength or blue for night); Intense, bright light at the end

SETTING: The hills close to Bethlehem

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JOSEF: Well, the sheep are all bedded down.. That new little spotted one, the one with the poor eyesight, the one we call Sylvester is still limping. I cleaned his hoof again.

GIDEON: Thank you, Josef.

JOSEF: What are you doing up here?

GIDEON: Look at the heavens, Josef! Have you ever seen the stars this beautiful? See that big one over there? I am going to make a wish on it.

JOSEF: *(Chuckling)* Ah, another wish. If only any of your wishes came true, you and I would be sons to the King and set for life and not freezing on this hillside.

GIDEON: But what if tonight is the night my wishes come true? What if tonight...

JOSEF: *(Laughing)* Go ahead and wish, Gideon. And this time I will make a wish also. I mean, what can it hurt?

GIDEON: *(Looking up at the light.)* Star light, star bright, brightest star I see tonight. I wish I may I wish I might have the wish I wish tonight. I wish for all my family to live in peace. For our people to escape the tyranny of Rome. To know that there is hope for the future. That is my wish. Now, what about you, Josef?

JOSEF: *(Acting silly)* I wish that you and I would become adopted by the King tonight and be given our sheeps' weight in gold. To never have to want again.

GIDEON: *(Turns and grins at Josef and slaps him on the back.)* Who knows, Gideon?! Maybe tonight! Maybe tonight! *(They hug and laugh. Josef does a double take at the spotlight with a questioning look.)*

JOSEF: Hey! Isn't that star getting brighter?

Light gets brighter, the shepherds shield their eyes

..... Lights down.

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